

Divine Light of Ali - In all Imams

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“You should be rest assured that the Light (*noor*) of Murtza Ali is in me, present and apparent before you. We put on the (bodily) dress (*jama*) and put off in the world, but our One Light (*noor*) is descended since eternity, therefore, you must see One Light (in different bodies). There was One Light (*noor*) of Ali in Aga Ali Shah and my grandfather, even in their forefathers, and that very Light (*noor*) is descended in me. I am their heir apparent. The Light (*noor*) is present and apparent all the times, only the names are different. The Throne (*gadi*) of Mawla Murtza Ali is present and will remain till the Judgment Day. You jamat have no reason to deject in any way. I am present before you. There is no difference between me and them (only) the bodies have to change, therefore, the true believers must comprehend the foregoing point.” (Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah (Bombay, 8th September, 1885)

Holy Koran: “O’Prophet! We have sent you as Guide to the path of God, a Warner... and an Ever Bright Lamp” (33:45)

The Ever Bright Lamp would not extinguish with the Prophet’ leaving this world, but his light of guidance continued on in an unbroken chain of his successor: “*Zurriyatan ba’zuha min ba’z*” means successor one after the other from father to son.

Eji enukhi a’al to chalti rahev’e, te a’al aulad tam’e janno means, “Their (Hasan and Hussain) descendant will remain continued. You recognize their descendant and offspring.” (**Pir Hasan Kabiruddin**)

Holy Koran: God has chosen Adam and Noah and the families of Ibrahim and Imran (the title of Abu Talib) in preference to others. They were descendants of one another.” (3:33-4)

By this perpetual line of succession to Prophet Muhammad, generation after generation, the Faith was ensured to remain living for ever with development in the path of achieving its ultimate aims.

(1) When the Will of Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah was read before the Ismaili leaders in Geneva, Switzerland on 13th July, 1957, the leaders sat on the floor in a room.

Mawlana Hazar Imam graciously made his appearance, the Ismaili leaders recited *salwat* and the Imam said, “**I am your 49th Mawla Mushqeel Kusha.**” These were Imam’s first words after assuming Imamate.

“***Anal lazi in amut, lam amut***” means, “My body dies, I never die.” (Hazrat Ali)

“The Light (*noor*) of the past generation exists now in the 48th generation.” (Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah, Nairobi, 4th October, 1905)

(2) In 1892, Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah made a brief visit in a village in Kutchh, where the jamat thought that their new Imam was too young, while Imam Aga Ali Shah was a different from him. After giving *didar* to the jamat, Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah said, “Mukhi, let us go to the river.” (Whenever Imam Aga Ali Shah visited this village, he used to say the same words to the Mukhi). Hearing it, the Mukhi and the jamat were surprised. When they reached the river, Imam sat on the stone (where Imam Aga Ali Shah used to sit). Imam put his hand in the river and said, “Mukhi, when I came in past, the water was cold, but why it is hot on today.” The drops of tears burst out of the eyes of the Mukhi and the jamat, who said, “You are truly Imam Aga Ali Shah having same *noor* of Mawla Ali.”

“***Awal Ali, A’akhar Ali. Malum shud i’n akharam***” means “I came to know it eventually that Ali is from eternity (and) Ali is till end.” (Shams Tabriz)

“***Ana azali wal abadi,***” means, “I am since eternity and shall remain till end.” (Hazrat Ali)

(3) On 10th August, 1946, the Diamond Jubilee of Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah commemorated in Dar-es-Salaam. Soon after the jubilee, the Imam visited a village near Dar-es-Salaam where 150 Indian Ismailis resided. In the *mehmani*, one person aged 75 years brought his mother aged 90 years. Imam asked him, “Is the memory of your mother is good?” He replied in affirmative. Then the Imam said, “You ask from her whether she remember her marriage?” He asked from his mother, and she replied in affirmative. The Imam said, “Ask her whether she remembered that I had presented her one *shawl* in the marriage.” She said, “Of course, I remember that *shawl*, but it was presented to me by Imam Hasan Ali Shah.” Imam Sultan Muhammad said, “I am Imam Hasan Ali Shah. In Imam Hasan Ali Shah and me is the same *noor* of Hazrat Ali.”

“The Light of Imam is One but its forms are different. It is like the electric bulbs which are blue, red, yellow, green but the electricity in them is the same. Substance is the same but the facets are different.” (Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah, Karachi, 7th Feb., 1951)

(4) In 1934, a certain Alibhai Somji presented a *mehmani* before Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah in Bombay alongwith his three sons. He introduced them before the

Imam. He said that his elder son was interested in scouting. The second son was interested in volunteers, and the younger son, Badurddin liked walking and jogging. Imam became happy mostly in the interest of Badruddin, and said, "Walking and jogging are good for health. Carry on." Later, Badruddin left Bombay after his education and joined an English Timber Co. in the forest of Indonesia, where he lived for 67 years (1935-2002). His company supplied timber wood for the construction of Serena Hotel in Islamabad. Badruddin was given chance to attend the opening ceremony of Serena Hotel in Islamabad, which was his first tour after 67 years. He arrived in Islamabad when his age was 85 years and joined the opening ceremony on 12th March, 2002 in presence of Mawlana Hazar Imam. After the ceremony, he stood in a line of guests, and when the Imam walked towards him, and said, "How are you? Are you still interested in walking and jogging? Carry on, these are good for health."

"The banks of river change their course but the water remains the same. As the water of the river is everflowing, in the same way the line of Imamate never stops and is perpetual." (**Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah**, Bombay, 9th February, 1936)

(5) After an end of the Diamond Jubilee in 1946 at Dar-es-Salaam, Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah and Mata Salamat went to airport. Sir Ebhoo Pirbhai (1905-1990) drove the car, which passed through a road, where was one store of soft drinks. Mata Salamat said, "Ebhoo, stop the car. I want ice-cream." Imam gave him one pound and said, "Bring ice-cream for us and you too." He brought ice-cream, then drove the car for airport. When the plane departed, Ebhoo Pirbhai all of a sudden remembered that four coins of shillings remained with him, which he forgot to return." Henceforward, Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah never visited Dar-es-Salaam. On 9th October, 1957, the first ceremonial Takhat Nashini of Mawlana Hazar Imam commemorated in Dar-es-Salaam. After that, Sir Ebhoo Pirbhai drove the car for airport. Imam stopped the car exactly on the same spot where Mata Salamat had stopped in 1946. Imam said, "I want ice-cream. Go and bring for me and you too." Then Imam looked at his pocket, and said, "I have no change" Imam smiled and said, "Ebhoo, do you remember, once I had passed through this road and had given you one pound for ice-cream. I think you have few shillings to return. Go and bring ice-cream from those coins."

"Hai' bhi Ali and hoish'e bhi Ali, essa vachan tam'e dil mahe'n dharna" means, "Ali is (present) and shall remain present. You implant this word in your heart."
(**Pir Shams**)

(6) Once Imam Aga Ali Shah handed over a gold ring embedded with diamonds to his house servant called Gulu in about 1883. The Imam said to him thrice, "You keep it in your custody and don't give it to anybody except me." On next year, Imam Aga Ali Shah expired and was succeeded by Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah when his age was 7 years, 9 months and 16 days. After the enthronement of the Imamate on 1st September, 1885,

Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah returned to his bungalow at Wadi, Bombay. He asked Gulu, "Give me the gold ring which I had given you last year." Gulu showed his inability to return and said, "It was given to me by your father by ordering not to give it to anybody except him." On next day at late night, Gulu saw a vision in the room that Imam Aga Ali Shah was sitting on his chair and said, "Gulu, give me the gold ring I had given you last year." Looking it, Gulu was highly surprised, and went to his room and brought and returned the gold ring to Imam Aga Ali Shah." He did not sleep whole night and was upset to see the vision. On next morning, Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah was oscillating in a swing in the lawn. He summoned Gulu and said, "Come here and see the gold ring in my finger, which you have returned me last night." Once again Gulu was astonished, to which the Imam said, "Gulu, remember, I am Aga Ali Shah. Our bodies are different like father and son, but our Light is same."

It will be interesting to learn that Vazir Ghulam Hussain Haji, known as Gulu (d. 1895) could speak Persian, therefore, Imam Hasan Ali Shah took him from Jerruk to Bombay in 1844 as an interpreter. He was also a religious tutor of Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah and was one of the greatest servants of the house of three Imams. His son was Dr. Suleman (d. 1924), who's son was Vazir Ibrahim (1889-1966). In his letter of 23rd May, 1953, addressed to Vazir Ibrahim, Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah wrote, "**Your grand-father was one of our greatest servants and he played a great part in the early years of my Imamate. It can also be said of your father that he was a great and most devoted servant.**"

**"I am the direct descendant of Prophet Mohamed and a large number of Mohammdens today numbering twenty millions acknowledge me as their spiritual head, they pay me tribute and worship me because their Prophet's blood runs in my veins."
(Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah)**

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